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### **Library Website for K-8 Independent School Librarians**

<https://sites.google.com/a/calvarychristian.org/librarian-s-network/>

I've been trying to organize our consortium of Independent School Librarians. Our group has been floundering in the last couple of years. It lacks leadership and the meeting structure is no longer working for us. In the past, we would meet 3-4 times a year at various schools. At the meetings we would bring two favorite books to share. We would spend one half of our meeting time sharing books. Then the other half of the time would be spent on a topic of the host's choosing. For example, a Titlewave representative might be invited to present at the meeting. Or a World Book representative might tell us about his/her product.

At our own school we have weekly "PLC" training sessions. PLC stands for Professional Learning Community. One of our sessions was on Google Sites. After that session I began to think about the idea of creating a repository, a Google Site, for our Library Network group. We needed a place to share resources.

I approached another librarian in the group who works at a school close by to see if she'd work with me on this site. We met several times learning how to use Google Sites and brainstorming ideas for how to organize it. It's a work in progress. At some point in time we might decide to organize it differently or change category names. We looked at the information we had and organized it in a way that seemed logical to us. The categories are: Contacts, Useful Links, Databases, Video Tutorials, Meeting Notes, Lesson Plans, Book Recommendations, Apps, Tech Tools, Professional Development and Membership Survey.

At our last meeting on Nov. 30th we got a suggestion to add a page for TLs favorite lessons. We also had a suggestion to add a page with suggestions for topics for future meetings. Since that meeting we have added another enthusiastic librarian to our group who will have "write" rights. We didn't want to add everyone initially because they haven't had training on Google Sites. The librarian we just added to our threesome will be able to edit the site easily.

Last year we met only once. The hostess for our spring meeting failed to organize that meeting. One problem we have traditionally encountered is that we never had a complete, current roster of our members. Consequently, keeping everyone informed of meetings has always been an issue because it was difficult to get in touch with everyone. One goal of this Library Website is to keep the list current. I created a Google Form which I emailed to everyone for whom I had an address. The Google Form populates the contact page as individuals enter information. They don't need a Gmail account or "write" rights to add their contact information. This should help us to keep our contact data more current. Hosts for meetings will be able to use this contact list to send invitations to meetings.

At these meetings we would talk and share some resources. We'd all be madly recording websites, databases, and the like. The website offers a repository for resources which will benefit us all. There we can post links, databases, apps, and more. Also we can post meeting notes, and book lists from books shared at meetings. Our hope is that by working together we

can work smarter not harder. We all have information that is useful to our fellow TLs, why not put it all in one place and organize it?